

DEDICATION TO ROBERT PATTERSON

This year the California Botanical Society is pleased to dedicate this volume of *Madroño* to Robert (Bob) Patterson, Professor of Biology, San Francisco State University.

Bob was born and raised in California, a true native of the state. He earned his B.A. in 1969 at the University of California, Santa Barbara where his interest in the California flora first began. He continued his studies at UCSB, earning his Ph.D. in 1975 working on the biosystematics of *Linanthus* (Polemoniaceae), a group he would continue to work on throughout his career.

Bob took his first, and last, faculty position at San Francisco State University in 1979, although he did serve as a visiting senior lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa in 1985. While at SFSU, Bob has provided countless hours of service to the Department of Biology and the Herbarium at San Francisco State.

Over the past 35 years, Bob's lab has focused on the systematics of Polemoniaceae and Hydrophyllaceae. His lab group has contributed tremendously to our understanding of relationships among closely related species of western North American genera of these families. Research in his lab used an array of approaches ranging from morphometrics to ascertain species limits to molecular sequence analysis to infer evolutionary histories of species. Results from the lab have been key to understanding the evolution of many morphological characters that have been traditionally used to classify these diverse taxa. In addition to his numerous research publications, Bob has contributed several taxonomic treatments to the *Jepson Manual* (e.g., Boraginaceae, Hydrophyllaceae, and Polemoniaceae) and numerous genera within these groups. He has served on the Editorial Board of the *Jepson* since 1985 and was an editor for the second edition of the *Manual*. In addition to his floristic work in California, Bob wrote the treatment for the Goodeniaceae for the *Manual of Flowering Plants of Hawai'i*, and has contributed to the *Flora of North America*.

Throughout his career Bob taught courses in general biology, plant taxonomy, plant anatomy, ethnobotany, field botany of the Sierra Nevada, and biogeography, as well as mentored numerous graduate students and has served on many Master's thesis and exam committees. Graduate students in Bob's lab (of which there have been over 35) learn important aspects of plant systematics regarding data collection (in the field as well as the laboratory), phylogenetic analysis, and how to publicly present and publication of their research. Bob's students have always been well represented at local and national botanical meetings. Upon completion of their degrees, most of Bob's students have gone on to Ph.D. programs all over the country and are still contributing to the knowledge and conservation of the California flora.

Beyond his research and teaching, Bob's contributions to the Californian botanical community have been nothing short of remarkable! He served as President of the California Botanical Society from 1989 to 1992, and as



Editor-in-Chief for *Madroño* from 1993 to 1996. In addition to being a Fellow and Research Associate at the California Academy of Sciences since 1984 and Trustee at Strybing Arboretum Society from 1989 to 1991.

Bob is perhaps at his best when teaching students in the field. His Plant Taxonomy course at SFSU was among the most popular courses taught each spring and was nothing short of legendary! Most every weekend was spent in the field where students were exposed to a wide variety of habitats in California. At each stop along the way students were treated to an impromptu lecture full of botanical information, with students hanging on Bob's every word. His love of California and its flora is

infectious. Students not only developed an appreciation and knowledge for the plants of California, but also gained an overall appreciation for the natural world and the study of biology.

The botanical world has been blessed with Bob's talent and kind heart.

—CHARLES D. BELL, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA 70148. cdbell1@uno.edu